

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05404 281429Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 SAM-01

/090 W

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R 281302Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4355

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5404

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI REACTION TO OPEC TERRORIST ATTACK

1. WHILE DURING EARLY STAGES OF VIENNA INCIDENT GOK TOOK
CAUTIOUSLY CRITICAL STANCE OF WHOLE OPERATION, PEACEFUL CONCLUSION
TO THE DRAMA AND, IN PARTICULAR, SAFE RETURN OF KUWAITI HOSTAGES
HAS LED TO A MORE CURIOUS KIND OF REACTION HERE. IMPORTANT KUWAITIS
WE HAVE MET IN LAST FEW DAYS ARE DEFENSIVE OF TERROISTS, IF NOT
ALTOGETHER APPROVING OF THEIR METHODS, AND SEEM FASCINATED BY
THE ROMATIC ASPECTS OF CARLOS AND GANG. FINALLY, THERE HAS
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05404 281429Z

EMERGED A CERTAIN SMUGNESS AT HAVING BEEN SEPARATED BY THE

TERRORISTS FROM THE ARAB REACTIONARY REGIMES, EVEN IF KUWAIT WAS NOT APPARENTLY PLACED IN THE "FRIEND" CATEGORY EITHER. CROWN PRINCE REFLECTED THIS FEELING TO AMBASSADOR DURING LATTER'S FAREWELL CALL WHEN, SPEAKING WITH SOME PRIDE OF SPECIAL KUWAITI ROLE AND FUNCTION IN ARAB WORLD, MENTIONED IN PASSING TERRORISTS' UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHERE TO CLASSIFY KUWAIT. IN FURTHER PLACING APPARENT DISTANCE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, OIL MINISTER KAZIMI REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS YESTERDAY THAT CONTRARY TO ALLEGATIONS OF YAMANI AND AMOUZEGAR, COMMANDOS HAD NOT THREATENED TO KILL ANY OF THEIR "SENIOR" HOSTAGES AND HAD TREATED ALL THE MINISTERS WITH COURTESY.

2. ONE INTERESTING INFO TIDBIT. EMBOFFS WERE TOLD BY SOURCE CLOSE TO OIL MINISER THAT, ACCORDING TO LATTER, "CARLOS" HAD SAID HE ORIGINALLY A SYRIAN AND THAT HIS NAME ACTUALLY WAS MAHMUD ABU KHAYR. SOURCE SAID THERE NO DOUBT THAT "CARLOS" OF THIS OPERATION WAS IDENTICAL WITH HIS NOTORIOUS NAMESAKE; HE HAD REPORTEDLY REGALED SOME OF HIS HOSGAGES WITH TALES OF PREVIOUS EXPLOITS.

3. COMMENT: IF VIEWS DESCRIBED PARA (1) REFLECT ACCUATELY KUWAIT ATTITUDES, THEY WILL CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT IF THEY BECOME KNOWN TO SAUDIS, IRANIANS, AND OTHERS. WE CANNOT HELP BUT BE DISAPPOINTED WITH APPARENT SHORT-SIGHTED KUWAITI ATTITUDES TOWARDS INCIDENT WHICH SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT HOME VIVIDLY DANGERS TO ALL OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRORISTS, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT05404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0478
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751210/aaaaaimm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI REACTION TO OPEC TERRORIST ATTACK
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, KU, OPEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006